



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 18, 2007

**National 4-H Council Applauds Senator Stevens'
Introduction of ATV Safety Bill**

National 4-H Council commends the "All-Terrain Vehicle Standards and Compliance Act of 2007," which was introduced today by Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK). The bill would require all ATV manufacturers, whether domestic or foreign, to comply with the same basic industry safety standards, training and education programs and product support.

"We praise Senator Stevens for his leadership in introducing this bill. It fills a critical need to ensure that all ATV manufacturers are adhering to basic safety standards," said Donald T. Floyd, Jr., president and chief executive officer, National 4-H Council. "4-H appeared before the Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs, Product Safety, and Insurance in 2006 in support of ATV safety legislation, as we have had a growing concern about ATV imports from companies that target American children but fail to comply with the most basic industry safety standards. We hope that all Members of Congress will support prompt enactment of this bill."

One of 4-H's most successful programs is the 4-H ATV Safety Program. With the support of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the financial aid and in kind support of the established ATV manufacturers, 4-H has provided ATV safety and training information to more than 18 million youth and adults through courses, workshops, exhibits, classroom activities and regular 4-H club meetings.

"4-H has trained millions of kids to ride their ATVs in a safe and responsible manner. Unfortunately, we have seen more and more imported youth-size ATVs that are unsafe and targeted to young people and first-time buyers who have little or no training on the risks of riding an ATV," said Floyd. "4-H has received calls and e-mails from across the country raising alarm about these products and the risks they create for our nation's youth."

—MORE—

“Too many children across the United States, including our members, have been put at risk by these products,” said Floyd. “The proposed legislation supports the efforts of many of our local 4-H leaders and youth across the country to promote ATV safety in their communities. National 4-H Council will share the information about this bill with its 4-H constituents, particularly those involved with addressing ATV issues in their communities, so they can make decisions and take actions locally in response to the legislation.”

The 4-H ATV Safety Program administered by National 4-H Council exists to promote the development and well-being of American children. 4-H is a community of more than 6.5 million young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. National 4-H Council is the national, private sector, non-profit partner of the 4-H Youth Development Program and its parent, the Cooperative Extension System of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Contact: Michael Carr, senior vice president, National 4-H Council, at mcarr@fourhcouncil.edu or 301-961-2972.

###